

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 038169
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/S:FWISNER:BABS
APPROVED BY S/S:FWISNER
NSC:MR. INDERFURTH
WHITE HOUSE:MR. WISE
AF:MR. MOOSE

-----009127 140339Z /61

O 140157Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038169

EXDIS, FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

REF: LAGOS 1819

1. YOU SHOULD TELL THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT THAT WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT IN TIME TO PERMIT HIM TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR THE SPRING SESSION OF CONGRESS. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL THE NIGERIANS THAT WE ATTACH EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO MAKING NIGERIA THE FIRST AFRICAN STOP ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP AND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE VISIT IS A SUCCESS.

2. WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE NIGERIANS WILL AGREE TO THE PRESIDENT ARRIVING LATE MARCH 31 INSTEAD OF APRIL 1. YOU MAY TELL THEM THAT THE PRESIDENT REALIZES THAT GENERAL OBASANJO IS FULLY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF NIGERIA'S BUDGET AND DOES NOT WISH TO INCONVENIENCE THE GENERAL.
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WE ARE PLANNING THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL AS LATE AS 10:30 PM, WHICH WILL PROVIDE HIM BARELY ENOUGH TIME FOR A NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE HIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL OBASANJO. THE PRESIDENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT AND, AS YOU POINTED OUT IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH BALEWA, HE MUST BE RESTED.

3. AS THE NIGERIANS KNOW, CHIEFS OF STATE VISITING THE PRESIDENT HERE SPEND THEIR FIRST NIGHT RESTING BEFORE THEY HAVE THEIR OFFICIAL WELCOMING CEREMONY. WE HAVE

ESTABLISHED THIS PRACTICE IN VIEW OF THE FATIGUE INVOLVED
IN TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAVEL.

4. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE ASSUME THAT OBASANJO WOULD
HAVE COMPLETED BY 10:30 PM ANY STATEMENT WHICH HE MIGHT
MAKE ON THE BUDGET. IF THAT ASSUMPTION IS INCORRECT,
PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE CAN TRY TO
ARRANGE THE EXACT TIME OF THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL TO
ACCOMMODATE OBASANJO. END FYI.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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